

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13-14 are currently pending.

By this amendment, Applicants have not introduced any new matter into the pending claims.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2nd ¶) is believed now to be moot in view of the foregoing amendments.

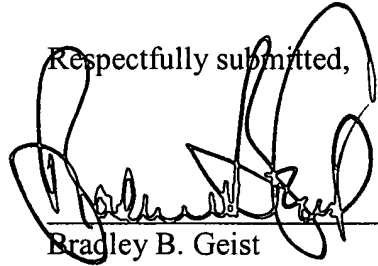
The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.K. Patent Publication No. 2,297,460 (Whinnett et al.) in view of the European Patent Publication No. 0,949,835 (Hiroshi). The arguments advanced in support of this rejection are set forth in item No. 4 on pages 4-6 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated. The remaining grounds of rejection asserted in connection with claims 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 in item 5, and claims 6 and 14 in item 6, are moot in view of the amendments to the pending claims. Further, since the claims other than 1 and 8 are dependent therefrom, if claim 1 and 8 are found patentable, then so should all claims dependent therefrom.

Applicants note with appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 12 and 13. Since claims 1 and 8 now incorporate the language which the

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Examiner found to confer patentably on claims 5, 6, 12 and 13, said claims 1 and 8, as well as all claims depending therefrom should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley B. Geist', is written over a horizontal line.

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